

**In the Drawings**

Submitted herewith are twenty (20) sheets of corrected formal drawings.

### REMARKS

Submitted herewith are twenty (20) sheets of corrected formal drawings. No new matter is being introduced by the drawings.

No amendments to the specification were necessary.

Claims 1-3 and 5-11 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Payne in view of Goodyear. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that "it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ in Payne, a sliding valve head at valve 24 for the purpose of establishing bi-directional checked fluid flow as recognized by Goodyear." Specifically, the reason why Payne could not be combined with Goodyear to teach Applicant's invention is the fact that the inflation and relief springs of Goodyear are not concentric with each other. Rather, they are positioned along different portions of the stem 16, thereby resulting, in essence, in separate but serially connected inflation and relief valves. In stark contrast, Applicant's combination inflation and relief valve is a double-acting valve caused by the fact that the inflation and relief springs are concentric to each other. To clarify the claim language, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended accordingly to provide more clearly that the relief spring is concentrically positioned within the inflation spring in addition to both the inflation

and the relief springs being positioned concentrically relative to the stem.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1 and 2, and their dependent claims, should stand allowable over the references of record. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 present stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Payne in view of Goodyear as applied to claims 1-3 and 5-11, further in view of Orchowski. The Examiner's assertion that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to employ in Payne, as modified by Goodyear, an angular frustoconical surface of the inflation valve sealing head gasket and seating surfaces for the purpose of increasing the surface area of contact between the valve head and seat thus perfecting the fluid tight closure therebetween as recognized by Orchowski. Claim 4 should be allowable for the reasons stated above with regard to its parent Claim 2.

All grounds of objection and rejection having been overcome by the amendments hereinabove, reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing was placed in an envelope and mailed via U.S. Express Mail (No. ED763016615US), postage prepaid to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop: Missing Parts, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2005.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No.50-1667.

  
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Stefan V. Stein

cc: Halkey-Roberts Corporation

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